RAIN BARREL STAND INSTRUCTIONS

By Mark Stansbury, April 8, 2021

This stand was designed for stability, strength, simplicity, and to have a minimal footprint to discourage pests from nesting under it.

Materials and tools:

Circular saw, rafter square with degrees marked (optional), variable speed drill & bits, measuring tape, pair of 3 ft. pipe clamps, sawhorses

2x8 and possibly 1 piece of 2x10 treated lumber (see instructions for calculating length)

Outdoor rated 3-1/2" wood screws

Gorilla glue or equivalent

Instructions:

1. The top should be square and wide enough to hold your barrel, and will be from 3 pieces of lumber. Use 2x8s and/or 2x10s to get the width you need.
2. Decide on length of legs, and select lumber sufficient for top, 4 legs, and 2 internal braces.
3. Cut 3 flat, straight pieces for top, then cut all 4 corners at a 45° angle.
4. Assemble top on a flat surface covered with plastic. Pre-drill screw holes in from the edges of the 45° angles. Spread glue (read glue instructions), clamp together, and drive all 4 screws. Left glue dry.
5. Cut all 4 legs the same length, with both ends at 15° angles (angles go same direction).
6. Put the top upside down on sawhorses, and attach the legs at the edges of the top, driving screws from underneath. Take care to approximate the 15° angle. Use 2 screws for each leg, leaving space for screw # 3 in the center.
7. The stand uses 2 internal braces. The upper one helps connect the top, and runs at 90° to the 3 top pieces. Hold one of your remaining pieces of wood next to the legs where the upper brace goes. With a pencil, mark the angle at both ends. Remove the piece, and check the angles you drew using the rafter square, and re-draw the lines if needed to maintain the 15° leg angle.
8. Cut the upper brace, place it in the exact center of the legs, and double-check that it crosses all 3 pieces of the top. Attach brace using 3 screws through each leg.
9. The lower brace goes at the bottom of the stand flush with the ends of the other 2 legs. Hold your last piece of wood next to the legs where it goes. Mark the angle at both ends, remove, and check the angles you drew using the rafter square, and re-draw the lines if needed to maintain the 15° angle.
10. Take the stand off the sawhorses and place on flat ground. Put the brace in the exact center of the legs, and double-check that it is 90° to the upper brace. Attach brace using 3 screws through each leg.
11. Drive screw # 3 from the top into each leg. Drive additional screws across the top into the upper brace.